

REMARKS

The Examiner's attention to the present application is noted with appreciation.

In paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action dated September 25, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1 through 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Dai et al. (U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2004/0144972). Applicant respectfully disagrees. The instant application claims priority to a PCT application (PCT/NL01/00577) with an international filing date of July 26, 2001. Dai et al. claims priority to a provisional application (60/416,326) filed October 4, 2002. Therefore, Dai et al. is not available as prior art under U.S.C. § 102(e).

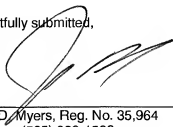
In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all grounds of rejection and objection have been avoided and/or traversed. It is believed that the case is now in condition for allowance and same is respectfully requested.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner believes that prosecution of this application might be expedited by discussion of the issues, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney for Applicant at the telephone number listed below.

Authorization is given to charge payment of any additional fees required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Acct. 13-4213.

Respectfully submitted,

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